DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

…… (DLCO-EA) ……

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SITREP No. 07/2009-2010

DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT FOR JANUARY, 2010

1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

In the Central Region, very little rain fell in the winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden during January. In Egypt, vegetation was mainly dry in most areas except on the Red Sea coastal plains between Abu Ramad and the Sudanese border. Heavy rains and flooding occurred in parts of the Sinao Peninsula as well as near Aswan, Egypt on 18-20 of January. In Saudi Arabia, light to moderate rain fell in the northern interior and the northern coast of the Red Sea near Al Wejh. Further south, vegetation was becoming green on the coast near Rabigh. In Yemen, light to moderate showers fell in few places along the Red Sea coastal plains in early January; nevertheless, ecological conditions were generally dry. In Oman, light showers fell at times, mainly in the north and vegetation was becoming green along the northern Batinah coast and in the northern interior areas of Dhahira and Dakhliya. (*FAO DL bulletin No. 376*)

1.1 Djibouti

Report not received.

1.2 Eritrea

During the month, light to moderate amount of rainfall was reported in Mahmimet (17410N3832E), north of Massawa and surroundings and on 20, 23, 25 January in Sheib (1553N/3904E) and Shelshela (1553N/3906E).

On the highlands and Western lowland, apart from drizzles no significant rainfall was occurred.

In the Eastern lowlands from the foothills to the coastal plains, vegetation was observed greening, green and some drying. Due to summer floods which were supplemented with good and adequate winter rainfall, most large Wadis in the coastal areas sustained with mature crops, some already harvested and others ready for harvest. In the high and western lowlands, natural vegetation was observed drying out.

Average high and low Temp. for Massawa and Assab were 32/22^{0}C and 29/20^{0}C respectively. Prevailing wind was Easterlies at a speed of 04 meters/sec.

1.3 Ethiopia

The perennial vegetation remained green to drying while the annual became largely dry in most parts of the country except in some Wadis which retained some moisture from the run off during the previous months. However, the general vegetation condition remained dry in most arid in areas of eastern and

southeastern Ethiopia where locusts could breed.
The temperature in most lowland areas of the country had become warmer (mainly between 35ºC & 42ºC) during the month.
Most days in January had remained dry except in the central part of the country, which received moderate rainfall by the middle of January.

1.4 Kenya

Except for some shower rains occurred in the coast, central and western parts of the country during the beginning of January, most days remained sunny and warm. Vegetation was observed and remained green in most parts of the country due to the previous months rainfalls.

1.5 Somalia

Dry and cold weather conditions were observed in the interior parts of northern Somalia. Vegetation was reported low and dry on the plateau between Borama and Erigavo
On 11th, 24th, 25th and 26th of the month, light to moderate rainfalls were reported in the coastal plains between Berbera and Asiado.

1.6 Sudan

In the eastern coastal areas vegetation was found green with low to medium densities and soil was reported wet. Areas located north-west of Toker Delta had received moderate rains on 31st December 2009.

1.7 Tanzania

Moderate to heavy rains continued to fall in most parts of the country. In Morogoro, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro regions the rains caused floods, landslides and washed away houses and crops. Vegetation was reported to be green in all parts of the country.

1.8 Uganda

During January, heavy rains and thunder storms were reported in several areas across the Country; however, the rains indicated sings of decline in the intensity towards the end of the month.
Vegetation was green across most parts of the Country.

2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

2.1 Djibouti

No locusts were reported.

2.2 Eritrea

PPD staff conducted ground locust survey in the winter locust breeding areas north of Massawa from 24 – 27 January, 2010. No locusts were found across the surveyed areas

2.3 Ethiopia

Ground survey was not conducted and the locust situation remained calm.

2.4 Somalia

There was unconfirmed report indicating of hoppers seen at Ashiado and Odawdir in the northwest part of the country.

2.5 Sudan

Ground survey was conducted by PPD staff in the northern and coastal areas of the country by mid and end of January. Scattered mature solitarious adults at densities up to 150 adults/ha were found on the Red Sea coast between Aiterba (1753N/3819E) and the Eritrean border and to a lesser extent in the Tokar Delta. However by the end of the month, no locusts were found in the above locations.

2.6 Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

Desert Locusts were not reported.

2.7 Other Regions *(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 376)*

Central Region: The locust situation remained calm during January because of poor rainfall in the winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea. Small-scale breeding occurred on the coast of Egypt near the Sudanese border. Scattered adults were present on the coast of Sudan, mainly near the Eritrean border, and on the coast of Yemen.

Western Region: The locust situation remained calm during January throughout the region. Scattered solitarious adults were present in northwest and northern Mauritania, and limited breeding took place in few areas that remained green. In Niger, scattered adults moved from Tamesna Plains to the Air Mountains where favorable ecological conditions could allow small-scale breeding in the coming months. A few adults probably also moved north into southern Algeria where isolated adults were reported near the Niger border. Isolated adults were also present in northeast Morocco.

Eastern Region: No locusts were reported in the region during January.

3.0 Forecast until mid-March 2010

3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.2 Eritrea

Small-scale breeding is expected to occur on the central Red Sea coast near Sheib and Shelshela causing locust numbers to increase slightly but remain below threatening levels. Regular monitoring should continue during the forecast period.

3.3 Ethiopia

No significant developments are likely.

3.4 Somalia

No significant developments are likely. .

3.5 Sudan

Small-scale breeding may occur early in the forecast period in the Tokar Delta and on the southern coast, otherwise, locust numbers will decline unless further rains fall.

3.6 Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

The countries are expected to remain free of Desert Locust infestation.

4.0 OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS

4.1 Red-billed Quelea birds *(Quelea quelea sp.)*

4.1.1 Tanzania

Quelea infestation was not reported.

4.1.2 Kenya

Quelea infestation was not reported

4.1.3 Ethiopia

Quelea infestation was not reported.

4.2 African Armyworm *(Spodoptera exempta)*

4.2.1 Tanzania

During January, Armyworm outbreak reports were received from Arusha, Kilosa, Iringa, Uyui, Nzega, Urambo, Igunga, Sikonge and Moshi Districts where Maize was the main crop infested. Armyworm traps all over the country reported moth catches during the beginning of January however the numbers were fewer than the last week of December catches. Control was carried out by farmers in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture staff.

4.2.2 Kenya

Outbreak of Armyworms was reported in many districts of the Coast and Eastern provinces during the beginning of January. The infestation was put under control by farmers in collaboration with Plant Protection Services Branch using ground control equipment. By the 3rd decade of January widespread outbreaks were reported in Narok, Kajiado, Naivasha etc… in the Rift Valley and in some areas in the Central Province. It was reported that worms infested widely pastureland and some Maize fields. Ground control operation using Knapsack and vehicle mounted sprayers was continuing.

Forecast during February 2010

During February, worm infestation will decrease in most locations of Tanzania, the Coastal, Eastern provinces of Kenya and infestation will continue to occur in Central and the Rift Valley regions of Kenya. There is also a low probability that infestation could start in the southern parts of Ethiopia. Therefore, regular monitoring of traps and field crops is highly advised.

SIFO

For Director,
05 February, 2010

For more information about the organization, please visit DLCO-EA's Website: **www.dlcoea.org. et**